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Approved For Release 2005/11/28 : CIA-RDP91-00966R000100020002-5

31 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Senate Select Committee Contact

1. Called Curt Smothers, Minority Counsel of the Senate Select Committee today to discuss the Staff's massive request for PHOENIX documentation and the Director's up-coming testimony on PHOENIX.

2. The following became clear:

a) The Director will not be testifying on the subject before Friday, 6 June and perhaps not until the following week;

b) Smothers and associates have been given basic briefings by DOD and by [] at CIA since preparing the document request. Much of the confusion evident in the request has been dissipated. Smothers was extremely complimentary of [] "splendid assistance and forthcoming spirit."

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c) We can relax on the full dimensions of the document request though some will be required.

3. Smothers is particularly interested in four categories of information and documents:

a) Progress reports sent to Washington on what was being accomplished.

b) The nature of directives issued to those actually carrying out the operations.

c) The perceptions of those who actually executed the program. (What did they perceive the mission and its purpose to be.) (This is a mite unclear to me!)

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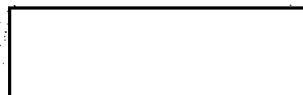
d) How was the program monitored and how effective was the monitoring.

4. Smothers will also want copies of any documents referred to in any statement the Director will be making to the Committee.

5. Smothers said he has copies of all of Mr. Colby's previous PHOENIX testimony on the Hill. The only item he thinks in need of clarification is the organizational structure--who controlled what?

6. I asked Smothers how we should interpret the juxtaposition of assassination and PHOENIX as the opening subjects of the Committee's inquiry. He said it was not ad hominem in the Colby involvement. Basically, the interest is in policy determinations with regard to "Killings", matching the two topical areas and trying to find similarities or distinctions. Everyone's hope at this stage, Smothers said, is to get the two topics behind and proceed to covert action.

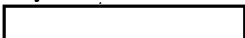
7. Smothers is personally hopeful that the Director's PHOENIX testimony will be sufficiently complete to void any possibility that additional witnesses will have to be called.



E. H. Knoche
Assistant to the Director

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cc: DCI
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